

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SOURCE:

1. Vrazhdebna airfield is located just southwest of Vrazhdebna village (N 42-43, E 23-24), south of the road from Sofia. According to the local population, this is a military and civilian airfield, and was used by the TABSO (Transportno Aviatsionno Bulgarsko-Slvetosko Obshtestvo; Bulgarian-Soviet Air Transport Company) which had commercial flights to Plovdiv, Burgas, Gorna Oryakhovitsa, Varna, Budapest, Prague, Odessa, and Moscow.
2. The Vrazhdebna airfield runway was completed in 1950. Aircraft observed between April and late June 1952, included single and twin-engine commercial planes, military aircraft with grey-green and olive drab painting and marked with five-pointed red stars, probably fighter-bombers, with retractable landing gear, and training planes, with fixed landing gear. Several jet aircraft with swept-back wings, which Hungarian officers identified as MIG-15s, were also observed at the field. The Bulgarian Air Force took part in the 1 May parade in Sofia and approximately 20 jet aircraft and one large formation of twin-engine bombers with olive-drab painting were observed at that time.¹
3. While passing the Bozhurishte airfield by train during the fall of 1951, source noticed several hangar-like buildings but could not see any aircraft. In the spring of 1952, source learned that Bozhurishte airfield was a training field and was equipped with aircraft repair shops.²
4. In 1950, unidentified Trudovaks were assigned to do construction work on a project near Kumaritsa, in the vicinity of the Sofia-Mezdra railroad line. Allegedly this was to be a military airfield, construction having started in 1948; the field was allegedly to be equipped with a concrete runway.³
4. In February 1952, officers overheard in the officer's mess of a military academy referred to a military airfield near Gorna Oryakhovitsa. An air force officers school, designated "Voenna Vuzdushno Uchilishte", was allegedly located at this airfield.⁴
5. An airfield, constructed by the Germans and allegedly occupied by the Bulgarian Air Force since about 1949, is located at the eastern edge of Plovdiv.⁵

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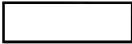
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6. An airfield constructed by the Germans is located near Krumovo, approximately eight kilometers southeast of Plovdiv. According to Plovdiv residents, the airfield was occupied by units of the Bulgarian Air Force in 1949. It was also reported that no runway was required at this field, since the soil consisted of hard alluvial gravel layers.⁶
7. In late 1951, a military airfield equipped with a concrete runway for jet aircraft, was completed near Burgas. The construction work was done by Trudovaks and had started in 1948. The construction staff of the Trudovaks included Captain Nikolov (fnu), an engineer.⁷

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